

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4252

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 2817

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN FROM POPPER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR SHUM CI

SUBJECT: YOUR HUMAN RIGHTS STATEMENTS

1. CHILEANS WILL WELCOME YOUR APRIL 5 STATEMENT IN HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE FOR ITS PERCEPTIVE COMMENT ON THE COMPLICATED RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, THE CONVENTIONAL ARMS SITUATION IN LATIN AMERICA, AND OUR DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS. THEY WILL ALSO NOTE FAVORABLY COORDINATOR DERIAN'S EMPHASIS IN HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON POSITIVE ACTIONS RATHER THAN NEGATIVE PRESSURES TO BRING ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS IMPROVEMENTS. EXTRACTS FROM BOTH STATEMENTS ARE CARRIED AS THE LEAD ARTICLE IN INFLUENTIAL EL MERCURIO APRIL 6.

2. LEAD EDITORIAL IN SAME ISSUE TAKES OFF FROM YOUR PLEDGE, AS MERCURIO INTERPRETS IT IN YOUR SWEARING-IN STATEMENT, OF AN "HONEST AND FRANK" HEMISPHERE POLICY. COMMENTING ON THE PARAGRAPH IN THAT STATEMENT REGARDING HUMAN RIGHTS, THE PAPER AGREES THAT THE VIOLATION OF FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS IS INDEED A GROUND FOR INTERNATIONAL CONCERN, BUT NOT FOR NATIONAL ACTION BY ANY
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COUNTRY WHICH JUDGES SUCH VIOLATIONS AND APPLIES SANCTIONS AGAINST A STATE WHICH IT CONSIDERS GUILTY ON THE BASIS OF ITS OWN DECISION, WITHOUT RECOURSE TO COMPETENT INTERNATIONAL ORGANS. REMAINDER OF EDITORIAL STRESSES NEED FOR AVOIDING INTERVENTION THROUGH MANIPULATION OF MILITARY OR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, AS WELL AS TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT POLICIES, AND WINDS UP WITH COMMENT

THAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S APRIL 14 OAS ADDRESS
WILL BE AWAITED WITH INTEREST IN THIS REGARD.

3. THE NOTES WHICH YOU AND MS DERIAN STRUCK ON THE
HILL YESTERDAY COULD GO FAR TOWARD REMOVING THE OBSTACLES
TO FRUITFUL RELATIONS WHICH HAVE RECENTLY APPEARED IN
THIS REGION. IT WOULD BE INTERESTING TO HAVE A SUMMARY
OF THE CONGRESSIONAL REACTION, AS DISCLOSED IN THE
QUESTION PERIODS. AS YOU KNOW, WE FEEL THAT IF THE
EXECUTIVE BRANCH CAN BE GIVEN SOME MANEUVERABILITY
IN THIS AREA, THERE IS SOME HOPE FOR IMPROVING THE
HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN THIS COUNTRY.
POPPER

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